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NORAH SINGS HER BROKEN HEART OUT

TOUGH BREAKUP A DRIVING FORCE BEHIND JONES' LATEST ALBUM PAGE 16

VANCOUVER metro®

Thursday, May 3, 2012

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Missing-women commissioner Wally Oppal, left, and Bruce Langereis are seen here in on-set cameos as stockbrokers in producer-director Uwe Boll's The Bailout. Boll has produced 20 films in Vancouver. CONTRIBUTED/CHRIS HELCERMANAS-BENGE

Oppal makes foray into film

New gig. Head of missing-women inquiry lands bloody cameo as victim of assassination

MATT KIELTYKA
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When missing-women inquiry commissioner Wally Oppal isn't investigating the actions of a serial killer, he's appearing in a violent Hollywood movie.

The former attorney general was spotted on the set of an Uwe Boll-directed feature film called The Bailout.

Shot in Vancouver last week, Oppal made an appearance as a stockbroker who gets shot by the title's main character — a New Yorker "who loses everything because of the 2008 Wall Street financial crisis, and who strikes back by targeting investment bankers for assassination," according to the Hollywood Reporter.

Shawn Williamson, co-chair and producer at Burnaby-based Brightlight Pictures, said he personally invited Oppal and Delta Land Development Ltd.'s Bruce Langereis to take part in the scene over dinner.

"They both seemed excited to be there," Williamson said. "People on set were asking (Oppal) a lot of questions about the inquiry, the commission and the press."

Lead actor Dominic Purcell was specifically interested in serial killer Robert Pickton, according to Williamson.

Oppal wore a device to mimic blood splatter from gunshots during his eight hours on set.

B.C. Civil Liberties Association president Robert Holmes questioned the commissioner's involvement in the film at a time when the inquiry is trying to speed up proceedings to meet a government-enforced June 30 deadline.

"I had thought the work Mr. Oppal was doing was to be a full-time position," said Holmes. "It comes as a surprise he would have the time to play as an actor in a film. I hope that the missing-women inquiry is getting the full attention by whoever is at the head of it."

Holmes said the BCCLA is "disappointed" the government will not push back the current deadline, which has already been extended by six months.

Williamson denied the shoot had any impact on the inquiry's progress.

"It had nothing to do with the commission on any level," he said. "(Oppal) wasn't there in a professional capacity."

German director Boll is notoriously often referred to as "the worst filmmaker in the world." He has been the subject of online petitions begging him to stop making movies and has publicly challenged critics to boxing matches.

The film is currently shooting on location in New York.

The Missing Women Commission of Inquiry is tasked with looking into the failure of police agencies to arrest serial killer Robert Pickton before 2002, and why an earlier attempted-murder charge against him had been stayed in 1998.

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Fatal fall

Pilot in hang-gilding death suspended

The hang-glider pilot whose passenger fell to her death during a flight in the Fraser Valley Saturday has had his instructor certificate suspended.

The Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association of Canada (HPAC) said it suspended the tandem instructor certification of William (Jon) Orders, who was charged with obstructing justice Monday for allegedly swallowing a memory card that may contain video footage of the fatal flight.

Lenami Godinez-Avila, 27, fell 300 metres to her death just seconds after takeoff at Mount Woodside near Agassiz.

The board of directors will await the outcome of its internal investigation to determine whether there will be additional disciplinary measures — which could include the loss of all ratings and expulsion from the association.

The HPAC appointed Martin Henry, a hang-gliding pilot with more than 30 years of experience and former association president, to investigate the incident.

Orders, who has 16 years of experience, appeared in a Chilliwack courtroom Wednesday for only a few minutes as his case was put off until Friday.

RCMP Cpl. Tammy Hollingsworth said Orders had undergone a series of X-rays that confirm the memory card is still inside him.

A judge will hear Friday whether Orders should be released from custody.

METRO/WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lions' new jerseys a fine fit

B.C. Lions, from left, Khalif Mitchell, Travis Lulay, head coach Mike Benevides, Geroy Simon and Paul McCallum show off the team's new jerseys Wednesday at a press conference at BC Place. The only change to the uniform was the removal of black ribbing on both the home and away jerseys. Though the new uniforms aren't much of a drastic change from the old look, Lions veteran receiver Simon said the more form-fitting jerseys make holding almost impossible for defenders. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

No evidence of charities misspending: Tides CEO

Fighting back.
Environment minister's comments about money laundering deemed 'preposterous'

KATE WEBB
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Tides Canada president and CEO Ross McMillan lashed out at federal Environment Minister Peter Kent's allegations of money laundering by Canadian charities Wednesday, calling the minister's comments "desperate and preposterous."

By law, Canadian charities are allowed to spend up to 10 per cent of their total resources on political activities. The government's 2012 budget included $8 million to rewrite the tax questionnaire on charities' political activities, and to investigate any that might be exceeding the limit.

Environmental organizations such as Vancouver-based Tides, which funds social and environmental initiatives across the country, have been singled out by Conservative cabinet ministers in recent months.

The feds claim some of them are undermining Canada's interests by funneling foreign money to pipeline and oilsands opponents.

"I see no evidence whatsoever that charities are acting inappropriately or illegally, and these are really grave allegations coming from a minister of the Crown," McMillan told Metro.

"If he has any reason to back them up, he should come forward with something more than innuendo ... and if not, he should apologize to Canadians for contributing to a smear campaign, which is what this is."

Kent accused charitable organizations of laundering offshore funds Tuesday on CBC television, but declined to name which ones, saying the specifics will come out in ongoing Senate finance committee hearings.

McMillan said Tides is scrupulous about tracking and reporting all of its political activity, which makes up less than one per cent of its overall activity.

An analysis of CRA data by The Canadian Press last week found that less than one per cent of Canada's 85,000 charities report devoting any resources to political activity.

Follow Kate Webb on Twitter @MetroK8

1 NEWS

On the web

Hitmakers Train go from Grammys to grapes

Going backstage with the rock band Train may not be quite what you expect from a Grammy-winning, group. Instead of groupies, you'll find wine glasses and bottles of their latest hit — their own wine. Get the full story at metronews.ca

Mobile news

We've long been hearing that Canadians are huge fans of watching online video, more so than web surfers in any other country. According to a recent survey, almost a quarter of Canadians say they now spend more time watching online video than traditional TV. Scan the code for the story.

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Online scams. Cop poses as Madonna fan in ticket-fraud sting operation

Papa don't preach, but Abbotsford police are after arresting a suspect who allegedly sold fake Madonna tickets to an undercover cop over Craigslist.

The investigation began in late April after the department received a number of complaints about fraudulent concert tickets.

The tips initiated a sting operation that saw an undercover officer contact the alleged seller, set up a meeting and buy the tickets off him.

After confirmation the tickets were fake, the 24-year-old Abbotsford man was arrested and slapped with fraud charges.

Abbotsford police spokesperson Const. Ian MacDonald said the man is also being investigated in connection with another Craigslist concert scam involving Coldplay tickets.

"Like anything on the web, there is no real way of verifying if something is real or not," MacDonald said. "My advice would be to stick to official ticket sellers and, if you have to, use (resellers) that have some sort of history and positive feedback."

The man facing charges allegedly tried to sell himself as a legitimate vendor by implying he was a family man with kids and donated to charities. Neither was true, according to police.

Abbotsford police noticed the biggest spike in fraudulent ticket complaints last year ahead of a Taylor Swift concert. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Police auction. Bikes and pricey booty up for grabs

There is a right way and a wrong way to do the annual Vancouver police auction, if you ask police property office manager Ian Wightman.

For nine years he has watched hundreds of bargain hunters overpay for items, from bikes to some of the more bizarre booty the auction is known for, all of them with adrenal glands pumping in time with the rise and fall of the auctioneer's gavel.

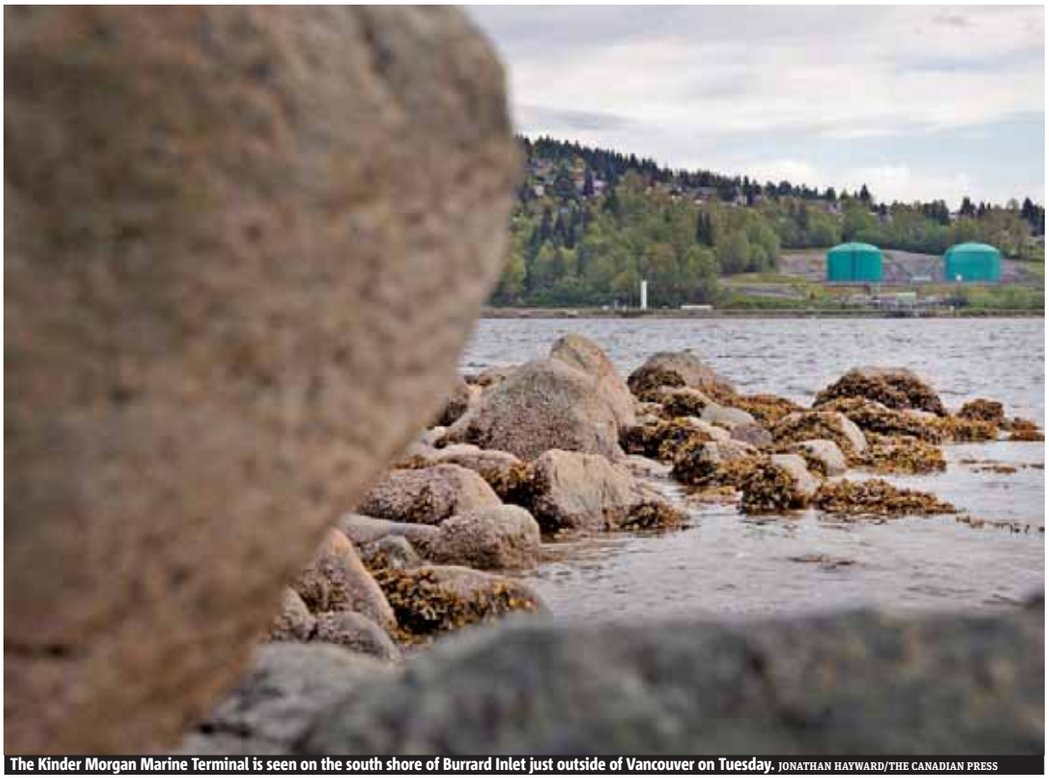
"It's all about investigating and figuring out how much you can afford and how much you want to pay," Wightman advised Wednesday.

The auction is this Saturday, but Thursday and Friday the public can preview the recovered swag, including over $11,000 in Tiffany jewelry and more than 400 bikes.

"I recommend ... they write down whatever information they can — like it's a 27-speed Kona road bike, and they go home at night and … see what it sells for retail, what it sells for on the Internet, so that when they come back here on Saturday and they're bidding, they don't get swept up in the excitement of buying a bike and end up paying way too much money," Wightman said.

A high-end Masi bike is among more than 400 bicycles up for sale Saturday. CONTRIBUTED/PEAK COMMUNICATORS

Some of the unique items up for grabs this year include a $12,500 Vacheron Constantin ladies' gold watch, a neon "Tool Bench" sign and two industrial pineapple presses. KATE WEBB/METRO



The Kinder Morgan Marine Terminal is seen on the south shore of Burrard Inlet just outside of Vancouver on Tuesday. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

City says no to pipeline expansion

Kinder Morgan. Company plans to spend $5 billion on upgrades, but needs National Energy Board approval first

Vancouver city council has voted in favour of a motion to officially oppose Kinder Morgan's planned pipeline expansion.

The motion, introduced by Mayor Gregor Robertson, calls for the city to draft a letter to the federal government with its stance on the proposal and to create a bylaw demanding oil companies fully insure the city in the event of a spill.

City's interests

"I will not shirk away from my duty to represent what I believe are the best interests of our city."

Mayor Gregor Robertson

"There is no question that the people of Paris or London or New York would have challenges with an oil tanker a day steaming past their downtown core," Robertson told city hall Wednesday. "We cannot hesitate to speak out."

The mayor's speech was met by applause from the public gallery and his motion enjoyed near-unanimous support from councillors.

NPA Coun. George Affleck was the lone dissenting voice.

Affleck insisted that the city should participate in full consultations with Kinder Morgan and trust in the federal review process before outright opposing the bid.

"What right do we have to make a knee-jerk decision on an issue that is so complex and so important to Vancouver's economy, the region's and the country's?" he questioned. "I believe that the motion in front of us is a perfect example of bad governance." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Known gangster gunned down in drive-by shooting: Witnesses

Targeted shooting?
This marks Vancouver's 4th homicide this year

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

Vancouver police investigate a shooting in the 1100 block of 61st Avenue. Neighbours identified longtime gangster Ranjit Singh Cheema as the victim.
PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

A well-known gangster was gunned down in an apparent drive-by shooting Wednesday morning outside his parent's southeast Vancouver home, according to friends.

Two family acquaintances identified the victim as Ranjit Singh Cheema. However, Vancouver police have not confirmed this report.

Cheema was apparently shot as he was exiting his SUV on East 61st Avenue near Ross Street shortly after 9 a.m., when a vehicle pulled up and fired multiple times.

Witnesses reported hearing up to seven shots. The shooting took place about a half-block away from an elementary school.

Jack, who declined to give his surname, said he rushed to the scene after hearing that his friend had been killed.

He said he had known Cheema for 15 years and would usually see him at the Ross Street Sikh temple.

"It's bad. Somebody who wants to change his life and that happens (to him)," he said.

Another friend, Herdish, who also declined to give her surname, said the longtime gangster tried to turn his life around for his family.

"When people (are) young they make so many mistakes," she said.

Dozens of curious onlookers lined the streets while investigators scanned the area with metal detectors.

Cheema was released from a California prison in January after serving five years for his part in an international drug-smuggling ring.

Follow Phylicia Torrevillas on Twitter @ptorrevillas

Police campaign

Crackdown on high-risk driving

Police, ICBC and the province are cracking down on high-risk drivers while paying special attention to intersections.

According to ICBC, 60 per cent of all crashes occur in intersections — at a rate of 241 per day.

The provincewide campaign launched Wednesday will have officers aggressively enforcing laws and catching those breaking the basic rules of the road.

VPD Staff Sgt. Jack Sarna said officers in the city will be targeting bad driving behaviours like tailgating, failing to yield, improper passing, running red lights and distracted driving.

"Our role is to reduce the crashes, reduce the injuries, reduce the deaths," Sarna said. "Your challenge is to modify your own behaviour."

ICBC says more than 51,000 people are injured in crashes at intersections each year. Victoria police Chief Jamie Graham said most crashes are preventable and can be avoided.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

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Canadians want to have their cake and eat it too: Prof

A UBC professor's analysis of a national poll shows nearly half of Canadians want it both ways when it comes to taxes and public spending.

The McAllister Opinion Research poll found that 45 per cent of Canadians say government laws, services and programs are irrelevant to their well-being and quality of life, while at the same time about 90 per cent reject spending less on almost all aspects of social policy.

"It's become really fashionable for Canadians to say, 'Oh, government's irrelevant, it has no bearing on people's quality of life, but don't cut anything! In fact, it would be great if we would spend more, but I just don't want to pay for it,'" said public-policy professor Paul Kershaw, who studied the poll results. "There does seem to be growing evidence that Canadian culture is becoming one where it is socially appropriate for citizens to say they want something for nothing."

Despite the vast majority wanting governments to spend as much, if not more, on things like families with kids, seniors, medical care, the environment and poverty reduction, 47 per cent said they would vote against any politician who wanted to increase taxes for any reason.

Kershaw said the latter attitude is echoed evenly across age demographics, but its implications are disproportionately negative for the under-40 set.

Since the mid-1970s, he said, social spending in Canada has gone up about $80 billion on things like medical care and pensions, but taxes have only increased by $22 billion.

"It's playing out leaving larger deficits and debts for younger Canadians to inherit, and worse than that still, it's crowding out the dollars available to invest in things like child care, or new-mom and new-dad benefits, or flex time that would allow a better work-life balance, which is especially important for younger Canadians when they're in their prime child-rearing years."

The poll of 1,325 Canadians across the country has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.7 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

KATE WEBB/METRO

Something for nothing

"There does seem to be growing evidence that Canadian culture is becoming one where it is socially appropriate for citizens to say they want something for nothing."
Paul Kershaw, UBC public-policy professor

More service, less taxes?

47%

Although a vast majority of Canadians want governments to spend as much, if not more, on things like families with kids, seniors, medical care and poverty reduction, 47 per cent of survey respondents said they would vote against a politician who wanted to increase taxes.

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Viral video. Cabbie who allegedly ran over man gets bail, can drive again

A taxi driver who allegedly ran over a man in a dramatic incident seen on a YouTube video is now allowed to get back behind the wheel.

A judge granted bail Wednesday to Guercy Edmond, while fellow cabbies crowded around the Montreal courthouse and greeted the decision by ceremoniously honking their horns.

The 47-year-old taxi driver was released after a hearing where details emerged about his highly publicized case. There were allegations of a racially charged encounter with three intoxicated clients that supposedly escalated during a ride in the wee hours Sunday.

After hearing the testimony a judge declared that Edmond — who is accused of four crimes, including hit-and-run — clearly acted in panic.

The judge scolded the prosecution for keeping the man in jail since the weekend, and also chided it for failing to produce any video evidence in court.

The judge fumed that even he had seen the images, on TV, and expressed exasperation that they hadn't been filed as evidence.

A sign of support is posted on a windscreen as taxi drivers gather outside a Montreal court.
GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

While awaiting his next court date Edmond can continue driving a cab, under several conditions.

He must refrain from picking up fares between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. in the sector of downtown Montreal where the alleged incident occurred.

His wife signed an undertaking for $3,000 bail and Edmond also agreed to not have any contact with three people involved in the altercation, including the man who suffered serious injuries.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Washing ashore

Harley-Davidson motorbike floats from Japan to B.C. after tsunami

Call it the Harley of the high seas.

A rust-encrusted Harley-Davidson motorcycle, made buoyant by the container in which it was stored, has washed up on an island off British Columbia after it was lost in last year's tsunami in Japan.

It floated over the 6,400 kilometres after the devastating wave washed across the Japanese shoreline in March last year.

"This is unmistakably mine," the bike's owner, Ikuo Yokoyama, told a Japanese TV station after he was located through the licence plate and shown photos of his ride. Yokoyama added: "It's miraculous."

One of the eeriest discoveries after the tsunami came last month when a fishing boat was spotted floating in the Gulf of Alaska.

A U.S. cutter fired on and sank the vessel after it was deemed it a hazard to shipping and to the coastline.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Convicted murderer Ronald Smith becomes emotional during his Montana clemency hearing Wednesday. MICHAEL GALLACHER/THE MISSOULIAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Killer weeps as sis pleads for his life

Her words of love. 'I honestly do not know what I'd do without my brother by my side,' she says of death row Canadian

The only Canadian on death row in the United States broke down and cried at his clemency hearing in Montana on Wednesday.

Ronald Smith, who shot and killed two young men in 1982, lost control when his sister Rita Duncan read a letter he'd written to their mother after her death last year. Smith covered his eyes, brushed away tears and was patted on the shoulder by his lawyer.

A daughter's sadness

"I've seen a man who has many regrets about the things he has done. He shows his remorse in his eyes and in his voice." Carmen Blackburn, Ronald Smith's daughter

Duncan said although she shut Smith out of her life for years, he has always loved her and she is proud to be his sister.

"I honestly do not know what I would do without my brother by my side," said Duncan, her voice wavering.

"I can't bear the thought of losing another brother and I'm sorry if this sounds selfish." She asked people in the packed courtroom to put themselves in her place.

Originally from Red Deer, Alta., Smith, 54, has been on death row since shooting Thomas Running Rabbit and Harvey Mad Man Jr. near East Glacier, Mont., 30 years ago.

Smith is asking the Board of Pardons and Parole to recommend his death sentence be commuted.

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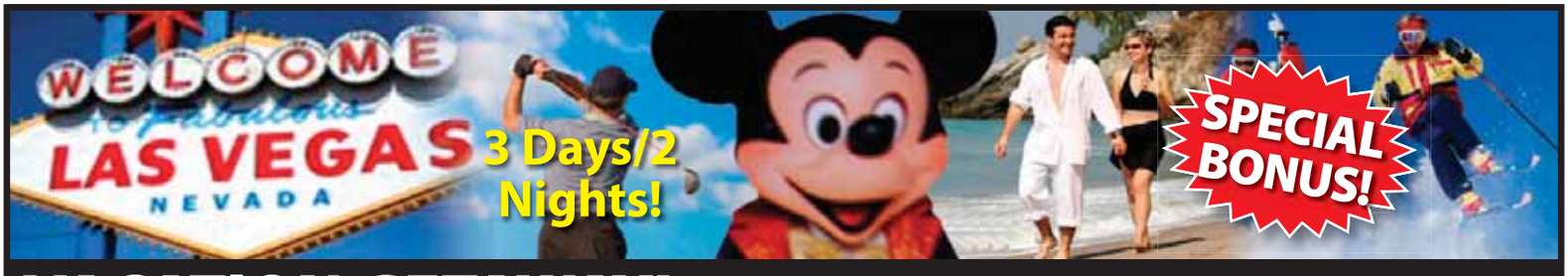

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Activist wants to leave China, fears for his family's safety

Chen Guangcheng. Blind Chinese legal activist concerned despite American brokered agreement

The blind Chinese activist at the centre of a six-day diplomatic tussle between the U.S. and China said he fears for his family's lives and wants to leave China, hours after American officials announced an agreement with Beijing that was to guarantee his safety.

Chen Guangcheng escaped from illegal house arrest and other mistreatment in his rural town, placing himself under the protection of U.S. diplomats last week.

On Wednesday, after six days holed up inside the American embassy, he emerged and was taken to a nearby hospital.

U.S. officials said they had extracted from the Chinese government a promise that Chen would reunite with his family and be allowed to start a new life in a university town.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The path of the dissident

Chinese dissidents who leave can't return

Chinese dissidents know their influence can fade after they leave the country, and they face the possibility of never coming home.

Wei Jingsheng was a soldier and electrician whose faith in China's communist order was shaken by Mao Zedong's ruinous policies. Wei spent 17 years in prison for urging reforms.

Rebiya Kadeer was once considered a success in China: an ethnic Uighur from the far region of Xinjiang who became a millionaire. But she was arrested in 1999 and sentenced to eight years in prison for mailing newspaper reports of anti-Chinese unrest to her husband overseas and for trying to give a list of political prisoners to U.S. congressional staff.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman signs her name as a show of support for blind Chinese legal activist Chen Guangcheng during an event in Hong Kong on Wednesday. KIN CHEUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gingrich officially drops out of presidential race

Former Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich speaks in North Carolina last month. CHUCK BURTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Newt Gingrich officially ended his campaign on Wednesday, and President Barack Obama's re-election campaign released a web video of clips from the Republican primaries in which the former House speaker sharply criticized Mitt Romney — Obama's likely opponent in November.

Facing a tight race, Obama's campaign put forward Gingrich's anti-Romney messages on issues from immigration to the presumptive nominee's tenure as a venture capitalist.

Gingrich led the Republicans out of 40 years of minority status in the lower house of Congress in 1994 but later resigned under an ethics cloud. He tried to stage a political comeback in this year's presidential contest, but he won primaries in only conservative South Carolina and Georgia, the state he represented for 20 years.

As he prepared to officially end his campaign, Gingrich thanked supporters in a video message posted on his website.

His campaign has reported being more than $4 million in debt, despite millions pumped by a gambling casino owner into an allied super political-action committee.

Gingrich pledged to work hard to prevent the "genuine disaster" of a second Obama term. He did not mention Romney, who crushed him with negative advertisements. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Tightrope walk across Niagara Falls set for June

Nik Wallenda points to Niagara Falls after a news conference on Wednesday. Wallenda will try to cross the Niagara Gorge on a tightrope June 15.
DAVID DUPREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Daredevil. Nik Wallenda spent months dealing with Canadian, U.S. officials for permission

Daredevil Nik Wallenda will try to cross the Niagara Gorge — including part of the famous falls — on a tightrope June 15.

The seventh-generation member of the Flying Wallendas spent months getting the necessary permissions from Canada and the United States for the cross-border stunt.

Organizers told a news conference in Niagara Falls, Ont., on Wednesday that the contracts have been signed and the date set.

Wallenda's stunt will merge two pop culture traditions — his own family's death-defying feats on the high wire and the daredevil acts at Niagara Falls that date back more than 100 years.

It took an act of the New York legislature and persistent lobbying of Canadian parks officials to make Wallenda's planned wire stunt a possibility.

The Niagara Parks Commission board gave its thumbs-up to Wallenda in February, reversing an earlier decision against the stunt.

Plan and profit

Tony Baldinelli, a spokesman for the Niagara Parks Commission, said that Wallenda will cross over a portion of the Canadian Horseshoe Falls as he walks from one side of the gorge to the other.

- **Economic impact.** A study has suggested that the television coverage of the event could help generate a $120-million shot in the arm to the Niagara economy.

"Not only is it a dream but we had to change two laws in two countries that were over 100 years old," Wallenda said.

"This is clearly a once-in-a-lifetime thing."

Niagara Parks chairwoman Janice Thomson had said the approval was a "unique one-time situation" and that Wallenda was able to prove he had proper controls and safety measures in place.

She also said the commission would only consider requests for such events from skilled professionals once every 20 years.

Wallenda's walk across the falls on a five-centimetre-diameter steel cable is expected to be televised live. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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More plastic coming to Canadian wallets

Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty, right, and Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney show off the new $20 bank bill during a ceremony in Ottawa on Wednesday. A mural of the new plastic $20 bill is on the side of the Bank of Canada building behind them. The Bank of Canada unveiled the new $20 polymer bank note Wednesday that will replace the current paper-cotton bills. Gone from the back of the bill are the depictions of Canadian artist Bill Reid's sculptures Raven and the First Men and The Spirit of Haida Gwaii. In their place are the Canadian National Vimy Memorial and clusters of red poppies. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Black's future in business uncertain

Prison release. Black, critics express doubt about the media baron's return to the media business

When former media baron Conrad Black is released from prison this week, he returns to a media landscape far different from the one he walked away from a decade ago.

Whether he will want to jump back into the world he once dominated is unknown, but those who have followed his rise and fall from grace say Black could still wield influence, though likely not at a public company.

Black himself has indicated he's done with the type of scrutiny that comes with running a publicly traded company following the demise of Hollinger International Inc.

"The regulators, the minority shareholders, all that crap. Oh, I can't stand it," he told Vanity Fair in an interview before returning to jail last August to serve the remaining nine months of his prison term.

Karl Moore, a professor at McGill University's Desautels Faculty of Management, said Black is unlikely to be involved in a publicly traded company, but he could quietly act as a consultant or adviser.

"I think there might be some business people that might be willing to do some business with him because he has a very sharp mind," Moore said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hollinger Inc.

"The regulators, the minority shareholders, all that crap. Oh, I can't stand it."

Baron Conrad Black

RIM. CEO says keypad is staying

Chief executive Thorsten Heins says RIM will continue to offer devices with its popular physical keypad.

Heins told media at the BlackBerry World conference in Orlando on Wednesday that, despite rumours to the contrary, its new line of BlackBerrys due for release later this year will include both touchscreens and keypads. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 101.37¢ US (-0.07¢)

TSX 12,230.12 (-102.66)

OIL $105.22 US (-0.94¢)

GOLD $1,654 US (-$8.40)

Natural gas: $2.253 US (-11.8¢)
Dow Jones: 13,268.57 (-10.75)

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Barrick Gold chairman offers insight

Barrick Gold chairman Peter Munk, right, chats with company president and CEO Aaron Regent during their annual general meeting in Toronto on Wednesday. Munk offered a bullish outlook for gold, but acknowledged that shares in the miner have lagged behind the company's performance. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Facebook could go public May 18

Tech. Company's founder campaigning to raise $5B in initial public offering

Facebook will go public on May 18, a published report says, in one of the most highly anticipated tech initial public offerings since Google went public in August 2004.

The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday that the social-networking company is set to start its road show on Monday, according to people familiar with the matter. The road show, a series of meetings with prospective institutional investors, is designed to stir interest in the company's stock.

Mark Zuckerberg, the founder and chief executive of Facebook, will attend some of the meetings, the Journal reported.

The Menlo Park, Calif.-based company is seeking to raise about $5 billion US in the offering, giving the entire company a value of about $100 billion.

Officials for Facebook declined to comment.

Facebook last month announced it is buying Instagram, the company behind a popular mobile photo-sharing application with the same name, for $1 billion, its largest acquisition ever.

During the first quarter, Facebook's net income fell 12 per cent, weighed down by higher expenses even as its revenue soared. Net income fell to $205 million in the three months that ended March 31, from $233 million a year earlier, while net income attributable to common shareholders fell to $137 million from $153 million. That amounts to earnings of nine cents per share in the latest quarter, down from 11 cents a year earlier. Revenue rose 45 per cent to $1.06 billion.

The company had 901-million monthly active users as of March 31, up from 845 million as of the end of 2011.

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THE COMPREHENSIVE CANADIAN LIST

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/hesays

I've been enamoured lately with various best-selling books of factoids such as Schott's Miscellany, the Farmers Almanac and John's Bathroom Reader (no relation), and how, despite their diversity of information, they all come back to one key factoid: I want a best-selling book, too.

So I've begun collecting information about Canada — both interesting and oddball — that I might present the Canadian All-manac, where one can learn everything from the name of Canada's first secretary general to Nellie McClung's best-selling album. For the small sample of text I provide below, a small donation is appreciated and mandatory.

What people from various Canadian places are called:
- Cornwall: Cornwallas
- Leduc: Leducs of Earl
- Kenora: Kenoraephrons
- Medicine Hat: Pillboxers
- Dawson Creek: Vanderbeeks
- Grand Prairie: Newfoundlanders
- Toronto: Empty inside

The most popular Canadian pickup lines:
"Condoms if necessary, but not necessarily condoms."
"General Wolfe would have pulled through if he'd seen you."
"It's been 172 years. Time for another Act of Union?"
"Hey, baby, you want to see my Head of State?"

Reasons Canadian prescription drugs are restricted in the U.S.:
- Canadian drugs include the evil gateway drug medicinal marijuana.
- There is no way to tell what's actually in the bottle because the labels are written in Canadian.
- Buying cheaper drugs from another country is just another sad example of "trying to be popular around the world because that would make sense and help our citizens."
- Canadian drugs could promote a polite, moderate lifestyle.

Most popular Canadian pastimes (non-hockey):
- Hockey.
- Nationality-hyphenating.
- Making love to a canoe.
- Mumbling O Canada.
- Historical re-enactments of the drafting of the Constitution Act of 1867. (I call George-Etienne Cartier!)
- Hating Canadian provinces you've never been to.
- Heritage moment drinking game! Drink if you hear, "I need these baskets back!" "Ahhh, Mr. Clarence, why doon't you just rrread it, then?" and "Hey, buddy, he means the friggin' village."

Ways Canadian soldiers differ from American soldiers:
- Canadian snipers say "sorry" after every shot.
- Humanitarian packages consist of three beer, some maple syrup, and Rock 'Em Sock 'Em 18.
- Afghan poppy fields are razed but replaced with medicinal marijuana.
- Uniforms by Roots.

Failed Canadian tourism slogans:
Manitoba: I'd walk a mile for a neighbour!
Ontario: Ride the downward spiral!
New Brunswick: For the love of God, stop!
Newfoundlanders: Your favourite walks-into-a-bar jokes come to life!
Nunavut: Friends, frostbite and fun!
Saskatchewan: Flat is phat!

Popular Canadian adult films:
- Winnipeggers
- Oh, Canada!
- Debbie Does Drapeau
- They Call Him Avro Arrow
- Henderson Scores #8
- Goose!
- Ig-naughty-iff
- The Devil and Mrs. Lyon Mackenzie King
- Backdoor Legislation: A National Film Board joint
- Dief-Throat

All eyes on the lens

MAURIZIO MALAGOLI/SOLENT NEWS & PHOTO AGENCY

Staring contest?

Owls spy with their little eyes

MODENA, ITALY. Amateur photographer and computer professional Maurizio Malagoli captured these little owls looking identically wide-eyed at the camera, after they were startled by an earlier picture being taken. Malagoli was left with this photograph, which shows the birds' yellow eyes in a perfect diagonal line. **METRO**

60 seconds

Maurizio Malagoli

Where did you capture this stunning image?
In Modena there is a sanctuary that tends to wounded animals before they are released back into the wild. At night, owls are attracted by the headlights of cars and are often injured on the roads. I arrived there the day some owls were being released. I positioned myself among the trees, wore green camouflage and waited a couple of hours before the owls were close enough to photograph. Looking into the lens I saw nothing but yellow eyes looking at me with a curious expression. **METRO**

Trivia

Sacred in Greek culture

- Scientifically known as athene noctua, little owls are associated with Athena, Greek goddess of wisdom, who is often featured with them in ancient art. The Greek one-euro coin shows the same little owl design as the silver tetradrachm coin from 2,500 years ago.

Metropolitan Panel

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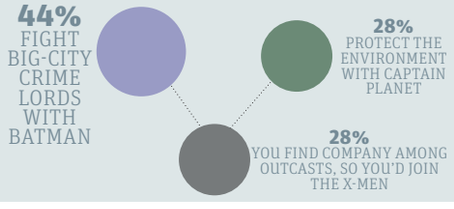
If you could create a superhero version of yourself, whose team would you join?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28%
PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT WITH CAPTAIN PLANET
28%
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Twitter

@Garossino:
If we want to lower pot use, why not try methods that actually work? Public education=>anti-smoking, safe sex, MADD all have better results.

@BrentButt:
RT @chearia @BrentButt I am a bad Canadian because I am not sure what the Leo's are. Is that our "Emmy's"? << BC Film & TV awards

@VanMayorsOffice:
City Council passes motion to protect #Vancouver from risks of major #oil spills: http://bit.ly/tankerbylaw #bcpoli #vanpoli

@Canucks_Lions:
They look pretty similar to the old ones, but I really like the new @BCLions jerseys

@westcosta79:
Was expecting more changes w/ new #BCLions jerseys. Personally wanted to see 70s all black jersey w/ orange arm stripes instead. #CFL

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The Gazillion Bubble Show comes to Vancouver in August. SUBMITTED

Lasers, special effects, millions of bubbles: What more can you want?

Artistry. The man dubbed as the 'greatest bubble artist in the world' is coming to Vancouver

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca

The problem with bubbles? They burst.

This can be a problem, say, in housing and stock markets. Also, when it comes time to tell the kids that Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny aren't real.

So why burst bubbles when you can blow them?

That may or may not have been the inspiration behind Fan Yang's fantastical bubble artistry, but it seems like a valid point to ponder, especially after watching his incredible displays.

Already a hit in New York, the show comes to Canada Aug. 24-26.

But, Graeme, I hear you say, that's four months from now!

Yes, my friends: four months. But tickets go on sale today, and judging by the buzz Yang's been getting, it's best to secure some for the kids before — pop! — they disappear.

Info

- The Gazillion Bubble Show comes to Vancouver Aug. 24-26. Tickets, from $29 to $60, on sale today via Ticketmaster.ca, or call 1-855-985-5000. More information at GazillionBubbleShow.ca.

"When I first saw the Gazillion Bubble Show, I knew we had to bring it to Vancouver," says event organizer Hoang Truong. "This is not just any bubble show, it is a highly entertaining spectacle filled with lasers, special effects, millions of bubbles, and much more. Kids really get into it. It makes for an excellent family outing."

Not just any bubble show is right. Yang currently holds 17 Guinness World Records, which, for the record, is 17 more than I hold.

Biggest bubble ever blown? Yang. Largest bubble wall ever created? Yang. (Can 166 feet, 11 inches be right?) Most bubbles within a bubble? Yang.

I know what you're thinking. What about encapsulating people inside a single soap bubble? Well, last year Yang put 118 people in one.

Dang, Yang.

The Canadian's skill has also impressed down-south celebrity talk-show hosts like Oprah, Regis, Ellen and Lettermen, who called Yang the "greatest bubble artist in the world."

Imagine getting your bubble artistry complimented by people who live in a bubble. So many layers.

2 SCENE

Scene in brief

YouTube launches channels

YouTube is adding to its original programming by launching channels specializing in female dramas and United States Olympic athletes. The Google Inc.-owned video site announced the new channels Wednesday ahead of an upfront presentation to advertisers. YouTube has sunk more than $100 million into an ambitious project to lure audiences for longer viewings and attract advertisers with higher quality videos. Filmmakers Jon Avnet and Rodrigo Garcia will launch the channel WIGS, focusing on scripted dramas for women. Also new is a TeamUSA channel from the U.S. Olympic Committee that will feature content ahead of the 2012 games.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

U.K. police arrest two over theft of valuable Chinese artifacts from Cambridge Museum

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Norah Jones, Danger Moust turn out concept album on Little Broken Hearts

New album. Singer partners with Danger Mouse and turns out a new level of music genius from a still young career

Norah Jones has a piano in her kitchen.

You need look no further than this wonderfully off-kilter fact for a metaphor to describe the 33-year-old singer's evolution as she releases arguably the most interesting album of her career, Little Broken Hearts.

"It's nice because I have a music room, but you know it's like the office you never go in or the dining room you never go in or something," Jones said. "So I ended up putting this funky old piano in my kitchen and it's great."

Jones didn't set out to put a piano in her kitchen, of course. Much like her collaboration with producer Danger Mouse on Little Broken Hearts, it just kind of happened naturally.

"I just like how it's turned into sort of a bit of a concept album without any intentions of that's what we were going to do," Jones said. "I'm proud that it ended up being what it is, going in knowing so little about what would happen. I love it."

Little Broken Hearts little resembles Jones' previous four solo albums, from the vampy cover photo to its lyrical content and vaguely psychedelic sound. It's edgy, effects-laden and deeply personal.

She's written a few songs she felt were this personal before, especially on her 2009 album The Fall. But much of Little Broken Hearts centres on her life and the emotions you run through during relationship problems — from betrayal and indecision to healing and moving on.

The 12 songs on Hearts represent a true collaboration between Jones and Brian Burton, who produces under the name Danger Mouse. They mainly focus on a difficult breakup Jones went through, but she says Burton's fingerprints are all over the place and his ideas and lyrics transformed songs in unexpected ways.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quote

"I just like how it's turned into sort of a bit of a concept album without any intentions of that's what we were going to. I'm proud that it ended up being what it is, going in knowing so little about what would happen. I love it."

Norah Jones
On making music

Norah Jones didn't set out to make a concept album but that's what she turned out. HANDOUT

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Ruffalo talks about the monster inside

The Avengers. Playing The Hulk is actor's latest challenge — besides fighting fame

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Mark Ruffalo takes on the role of The Hulk in The Avengers, opening Friday. HANDOUT

I meet Mark Ruffalo at a midtown Toronto hotel to chat about The Avengers not realizing it represented a coming home of sorts for the actor. As we talked about playing the dual role of David Banner and his rage-a-holic alter ego The Hulk I mention one of his first television acting gigs, a guest spot on Due South shot in Hogtown.

"I stayed at this hotel before it was revamped," he says. "It was pretty low-end back then."

Judging by the fancy-shmancy Lobster Grilled Cheese on the room service menu the hotel is in better shape these days, and so is Ruffalo's career. The Oscar nominated actor is about to enjoy his biggest box office stint ever, despite having recently moved his family away from what he calls "the machinery" of Hollywood.

"Sometimes roles reflect where you are in your life," he says. "This came along and I tried to come up with every reason why I shouldn't do it, but I was still interested in it."

He saw a parallel between himself and the character.

"I ran away like Banner. I have this beast that's inside me that is celebrity and fame.

And this thing I have been on the run from has a tremendous amount of power, which if it is used right could actually have a positive effect in the world. And reach an audience."

That means making more of the kind of movies Ruffalo specializes in — indie dramas with real characters and situations. In the meantime, however, he has a blockbuster to promote, which involves the drudgery of answering the same questions over and over again.

"The big one," he says, "which I think has been asked the most is 'Which superhero power would you have?' Basically you have a choice between flying and being invisible. Then Scarlett added teleporting, which I thought was a cool one. Now mine is to be able to turn into anything I wanted at any given moment. I could be a river. I could be a cheeseburger with a beautiful girl eating me."

He doesn't care much for having to answer those kinds of questions, but would jump at the chance to revisit the Hulk.

"Let's do Planet Hulk! He won't let Banner have his body back! There's this huge existential fight going on. It's not The Hulk versus the World, it's the Hulk versus Banner and Banner versus the Hulk inside himself."

Quoted

"I have this beast that's inside me that is celebrity and fame."

Mark Ruffalo

SNL. Creator mum on possible cast changes

Canadian Saturday Night Live creator Lorne Michaels showed a sense of humour as he dodged a question about impending cast changes on Wednesday.

Rumour has it that stars Kristen Wiig, Jason Sudeikis and Andy Samberg could all leave the long-running sketch series when the current season ends on May 19, but Michaels said he didn't know yet what would happen.

"I could (comment) except I'm not really certain myself," the 67-year-old Toronto native said in a conference call Wednesday.

"I know there will be some (changes), but it's just sort of the nature of the way we work that no one really talks about it until the season's done. Needless to say, I'd like everybody to stay."

He waited a beat, before quipping: "Did that avoid that question successfully?"

Joined on the call by this Saturday's host, two-time Super Bowl MVP quarterback Eli Manning, Michaels did nevertheless acknowledge that he would spend the summer scouring dark comedy clubs for possible additions to the venerable show's cast.

"I think the show has always been about bringing new people in," Michaels said.

For now, the only newbie is Manning. The 31-year-old says he and his brother, newly signed Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning, grew up watching SNL.

"I am a fan and ... that style of humour, I appreciate it," said Manning, who was then pressed on his all-time favourite skit. "Chris Farley and Patrick Swayze doing the dancing, the Chippendales — that's always a classic," he replied.

Manning's elder brother also hosted the show back in 2007, and was one of two former SNL hosts — along with NFL analyst John Madden — who phoned the New York Giants quarterback to offer advice.

Mainly, the message delivered was that Manning should trust the writers and try to have fun. "I think the good thing about Saturday Night Live is you can kind of come in and maybe express a different side that people don't see," Manning said. "I think that's one thing I'd say about Peyton and I, we don't mind making fun of (ourselves) or letting jokes be at our own expense."

It was that irreverence that appealed to Michaels, who says he tried to persuade Manning to host the show for years. "I think he's both charming and radiates a certain kind of intelligence," said Michaels, who also hinted that musical guest Rihanna could take part in a skit.

"You sort of believe that he doesn't take himself that seriously. I think he takes his work very seriously."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kristen Wiig may be ending her stint on SNL. GETTY IMAGES

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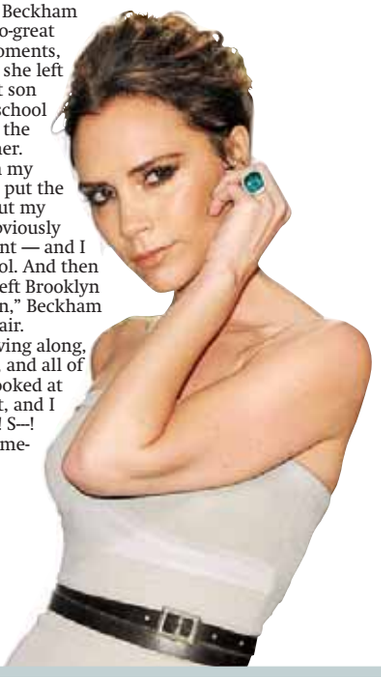


Even famous mother of four Victoria Beckham has her not-so-great parenting moments, like the time she left to take eldest son Brooklyn to school — but forgot the kid all together.

"I jump in my Range Rover, put the car seat in, put my iPod on — obviously very important — and I drive to school. And then I realize, I'd left Brooklyn in the kitchen," Beckham tells Vanity Fair.

"I was driving along, talking away, and all of a sudden, I looked at the front seat, and I was like, 'S—! S—! I've forgot something!"

Cowell: As humble as ever

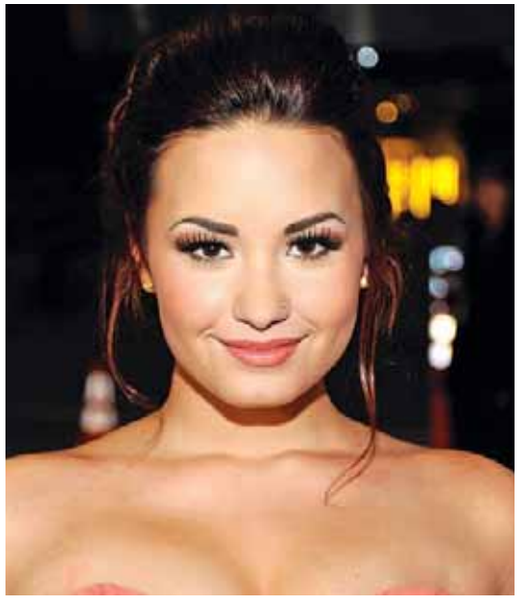
Simon Cowell may not have wanted to keep Cheryl Cole on the U.S. edition of The X Factor, but he's more than happy to take credit for the success she's had in the U.K.

"Even though we went through that pretty horrible period, I could look Cheryl in the eye and say what I did for her in those two years propelled her into a different league," Cowell tells GQ magazine, admitting that while the debacle with the U.S. show may have created some distance between them, he'd still be open to working together again.

"She was hurt. It all ended pretty badly, to be honest," he says. "I always said to her the door is permanently open. It's entirely up to her what she wants to do."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



The Word

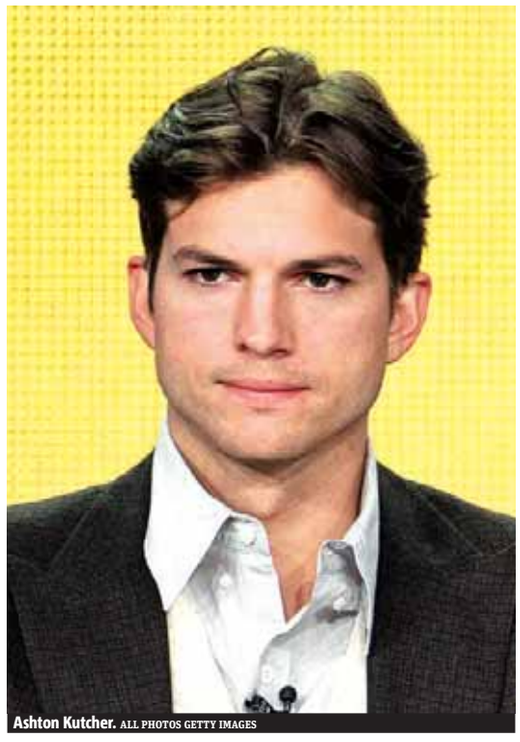
Demi and Miley vie for last X Factor seat

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

With Britney Spears reportedly set to fill one of the empty judges' panel seats on The X Factor, it's a starlet faceoff for the final slot since former judges Paula Abdul and Nicole Scherzinger were kicked off the show after its first season.

And according to conflicting reports, it looks like it's down to two former Disney stars.

Celebuzz.com reports that executive Simon Cowell has been considering Miley Cyrus for the spot, while The Hollywood Reporter insists that Demi Lovato is close to a deal — and even in the "final negotiations" stage of securing the job. I know this sounds, well, crazy, but if these ladies are to decide who has authentic talent on a national television show, why not find someone who actually writes their own music and isn't auto-tuned within an inch of their life?



Ashton Kutcher. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Kutcher brings in the big bucks

With a new deal reportedly in place, Ashton Kutcher will be returning for another season of Two and a Half Men, according to Deadline.

For next year's run — the popular sitcom's 10th season — Kutcher will reportedly bring in $700,000 per episode, with co-star John Cryer making slightly less than Kutcher and young Angus T. Jones earning $300,000 per episode. Each actor signed a one-year contract, sparking speculation that the 10th season could be the show's last.

Witherspoon flaunts her bump

While she hasn't yet made an official announcement about her pregnancy, Reese Witherspoon is doing little to hide the obvious.

The Oscar-winning actress was spotted out and about in her L.A. neighborhood this week in a thin, clingy purple dress, according to Radar Online. And this past weekend, Witherspoon and husband Jim Toth turned heads at the White House Correspondents' Dinner in Washington, D.C., with her in a tight top that accentuated her growing bump.

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He's starting with the man in the mirror

Ladies, take a breather. The boys are learning how to shop

Honey, did you pick that out yourself? THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/PARKANDBOND.COM

Don't be fooled by the old "my girlfriend bought me this" line.

Fashion insiders say men are taking a keen interest in how they dress — and that means developing their own shopping habits. The biggest difference in how they shop for clothes? Probably research — and purpose.

A Saturday at the shopping mall is not a highlight on most men's calendars, says Tyler Thoreson, head of Gilt Groupe's menswear editorial and creative divisions. Even when they're shopping online, they're not surfing many websites or coming back to them day after day, he says, but when they find something they like, they are passionate and potentially more loyal than women.

Call shopping "entertainment" and they're not buying it, but describing it as a "hobby" is something else, he says.

Men can "geek out" when it comes to the construction and even minutia of a garment. "I'm not just talking about a 'fashion guy.' For many men, your wardrobe is part of your program of discernment. They'll learn about it like a car or a wine or a watch," Thoreson says. "Guys can be busting each other's chops in one breath and talking about soft construction on the shoulder of a suit in the next. They love construction, specs. It's about what's under the hood."

You now see men dressing for the life they want to lead and image they want to project, agrees Eric Jennings, vice-president and fashion director of menswear for Saks Fifth Avenue. Shopping and, even worse, trying things on are necessary evils to get there.

They go to stores on a mission and like to get it accomplished, he says.

They'll come in knowing exactly what they want and will buy in multiples. But, he adds, the modern customer is buying a broader range of products and sees a value in being knowledgable about them.

Paul Grangaard, CEO of shoe brand Allen Edmonds, says when it comes to fashion, men are hunters and women are gatherers. Different methods, different mentalities, but both can end up with full closets, he says.

"Shopping is not a man's favourite when it's about waiting for women. It's not a leisure activity. Shopping for their own clothing isn't their favourite place, either, but there is a renaissance — it's small but steady — as men are interested in an upgrade," Jennings says.

"Coming out of the recession, they know they have to take appearance more seriously. It can be that thing for a new job or a promotion."

And, he adds, if they're dressing well during the week, it's likely to become a habit on weekends.

"Men travel in herds, and when it's OK in your friendship group to care about how you look on the weekends, it spreads pretty quickly," observes Grangaard. "Since the recession of 2008, you're always networking. Men dress better for midweek coffees and lunches and on weekends because you never know who you'll run into where. You always want to look secure, stable and reliable."

It's hard to do that in beat-up jeans and running shoes.

Back to that pack mentality, Jennings says he notices groups of friends and colleagues often dress in similar styles.

Many men don't want to ask for style advice from wives, friends or salespeople - the way they don't like to ask for directions - and even compliments are few and far between, but, he says, they more easily ask peers, "Who makes that suit?" or "Where did you get that?" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Speaking of swagger

"Guys can be busting each other's chops in one breath and talking about soft construction on the shoulder of a suit in the next. They love construction, specs. It's about what's under the hood."

Tyler Thoreson. Gilt Groupe

What's trending?

Tyler Thoreson says he looks around midtown Manhattan and quite literally sees a change.

- You see men — creative types and hipsters, not just bankers, he stresses — voluntarily wearing ties
- On Gilt's upscale Park & Bond website, for example, neckwear sales increased 33 per cent in 2011 over the previous year. "They're wearing ties because they want to, not because they have to."
- Other booming items are pocket squares, Converse sneakers, tie clips and rope bracelets.

3 LIFE

Style file

No Mother's Day for model

Please, no flowers for Christy Turlington Burns this Mother's Day. No chocolates and no last-minute, convenience-store cards, either.

A handmade craft from her children would be OK, but mostly what she wants is to have a conversation about the important role that mothers — and grandmothers and great-grandmothers, too — play in families and in larger communities all over the world.

"I never was more appreciative of my own mom and all the other moms out there than when I became one myself," said Turlington Burns, a model, businesswoman and documentary filmmaker, whose children are now six and eight years old. Her No Mother's Day Mother's Day is a way to draw attention to maternal mortality, the cause at the heart of the Every Mother Counts advocacy campaign she founded in 2010. It's also a way to get back to the basics and, hopefully, cut through "all the noise" that now comes with a holiday that the National Retail Federation estimates will come with an $18.6 billion price tag in spending by Americans this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the Web

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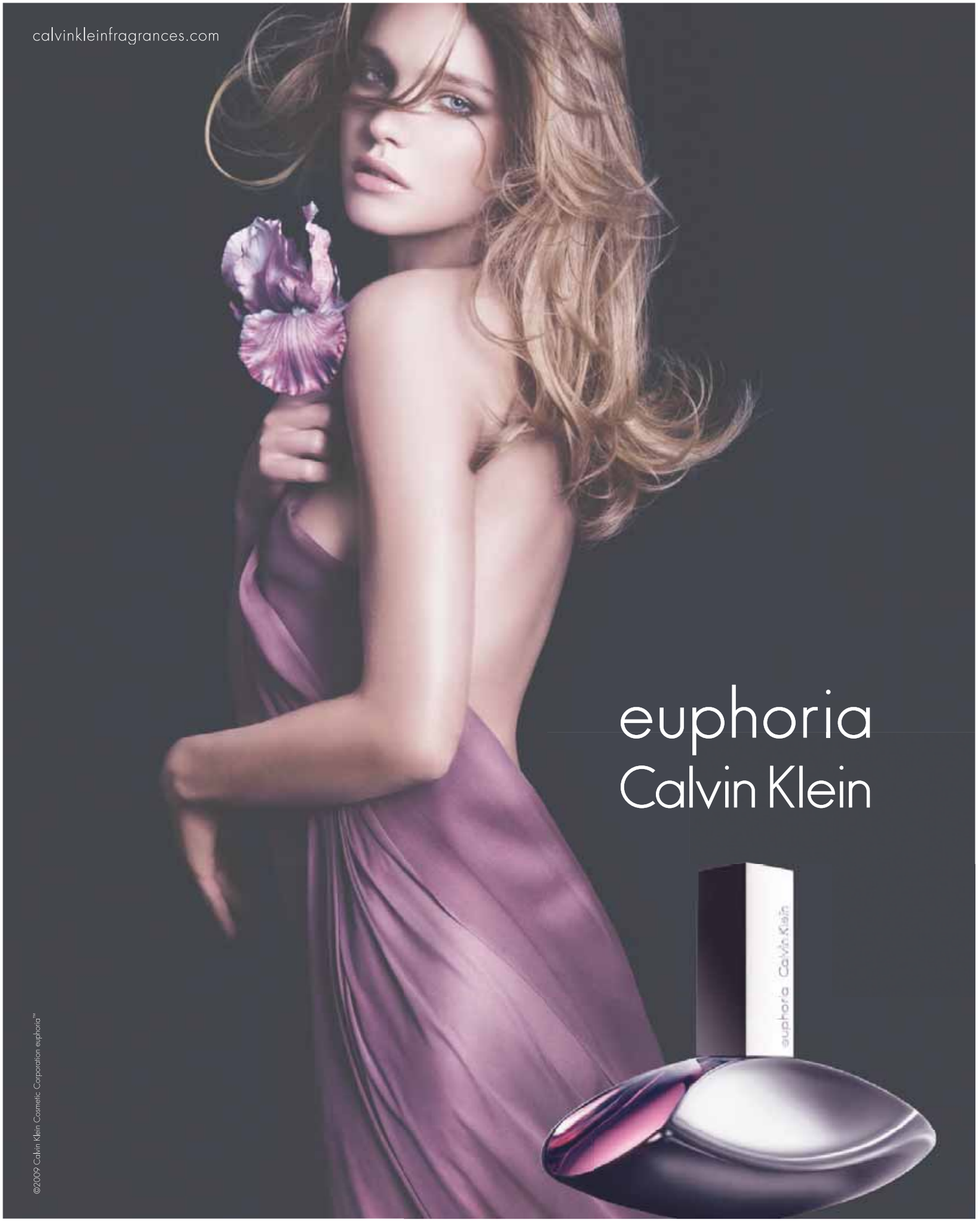
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Making waves

Beach fashion. Colours, prints, ruffles and lace highlight the trends for women's swimwear

STEPHANIE ORFORD
For Metro

If you thought women's fashion was exuberant this season — colours and prints! ruffles and lace! — then you should see this summer's swimwear.

Tracey Tomlinson, the Ontario sales rep for Roxy swimwear, outlined some of the top trends of the season for women.

Crochet
The fabric is a sexy twist on this season's obsession with retro, ladylike looks — and it's been selling like hotcakes, according to Tomlinson.

"Crochet has been phenomenal," she says, adding it can be worn many ways, from crochet details on the trim of a bikini to crochet all over. Yellow and black have been doing well, but white is the most-wanted colour by a long shot.

Mix and match
This makes it easier to find the right sizes separately for top and bottom, and mix colours and patterns, like neon with neutral or polka dots with stripes.

Body shapes
"A focus on new bodies" is on-trend right now, says Tomlinson. On the sexy side, Roxy has created a bustier bikini top for this season — a nod to lingerie. But at the same time it brought back the T-back bikini. It may look cute with gathered ruching and bead details, but it's ready for active pastimes like stand-up paddle boarding wherever, whenever, says Tomlinson.

Bandeau bikini tops also remain a strong trend. "I think girls just don't want the tan line," says Tomlinson.

Soft
When women shop, they tend to feel the fabric before they will commit to buying a garment, says Tomlinson.

"Girls tend to shop with their hands," she says.

Cute details
"That whole Coachella look," with handcrafted-looking details, is in style this season, says Tomlinson. Look for inserts made with crochet or lace, as well as fringe on the back of pants and on the bust, and extra-long ties with tassels.

Summer sizzlers

Three trends not to be missed:

- The '50s pin-up girl
- Animal prints. Right, mixed zebra and flower print bandeau bikini top, $34.95, and side-tie bikini bottom, $29.95, available at La Vie En Rose (lavieenrose.com).

- Splash of colour — go orange!

Smocking
This puckered, gathered elastic fabric is winding up on busts, on hips, or all over garments because it fits snugly, but still allows lots of movement.

The one-piece
One-piece bathing suits are back with a vengeance, especially for juniors, says Tomlinson. These allow the wearer to cover up a little more than a bikini does, while still drawing attention where you want it.

"It's not like your mom's Speedo," Tomlinson confirms.

NATIVE SKY BANDEAU BIKINI TOP, $48, FAR LEFT, AVAILABLE AT ROXY (ROXY.COM), TOP, SAFFRON TANKINI TOP, $39.95, AND SIDE-TIE BIKINI BOTTOM, $29.95, AVAILABLE AT LA VIE EN ROSE AFTER JUNE 4 (LAVIEENROSE.COM), LEFT, LA BLANCA – SHINE ON, $142, AVAILABLE AT THE BAY (THEBAY.COM).

Accessories. What you need at the beach

Accessories aren't just a nice to have at the beach. They are a requirement.

Here are some of the top beach accessory trends for men and women:

Floral towel
Colours and prints are the order of the day, and the beach is the perfect venue to rock a bright, patterned towel with your new neon swimsuit.

"Tropical flowers make you dream of Hawaii or a Caribbean island getaway even if you're lounging on your pool patio," says John Izzo, VP of design and product development at lingerie and swimwear retailer La Vie en Rose.

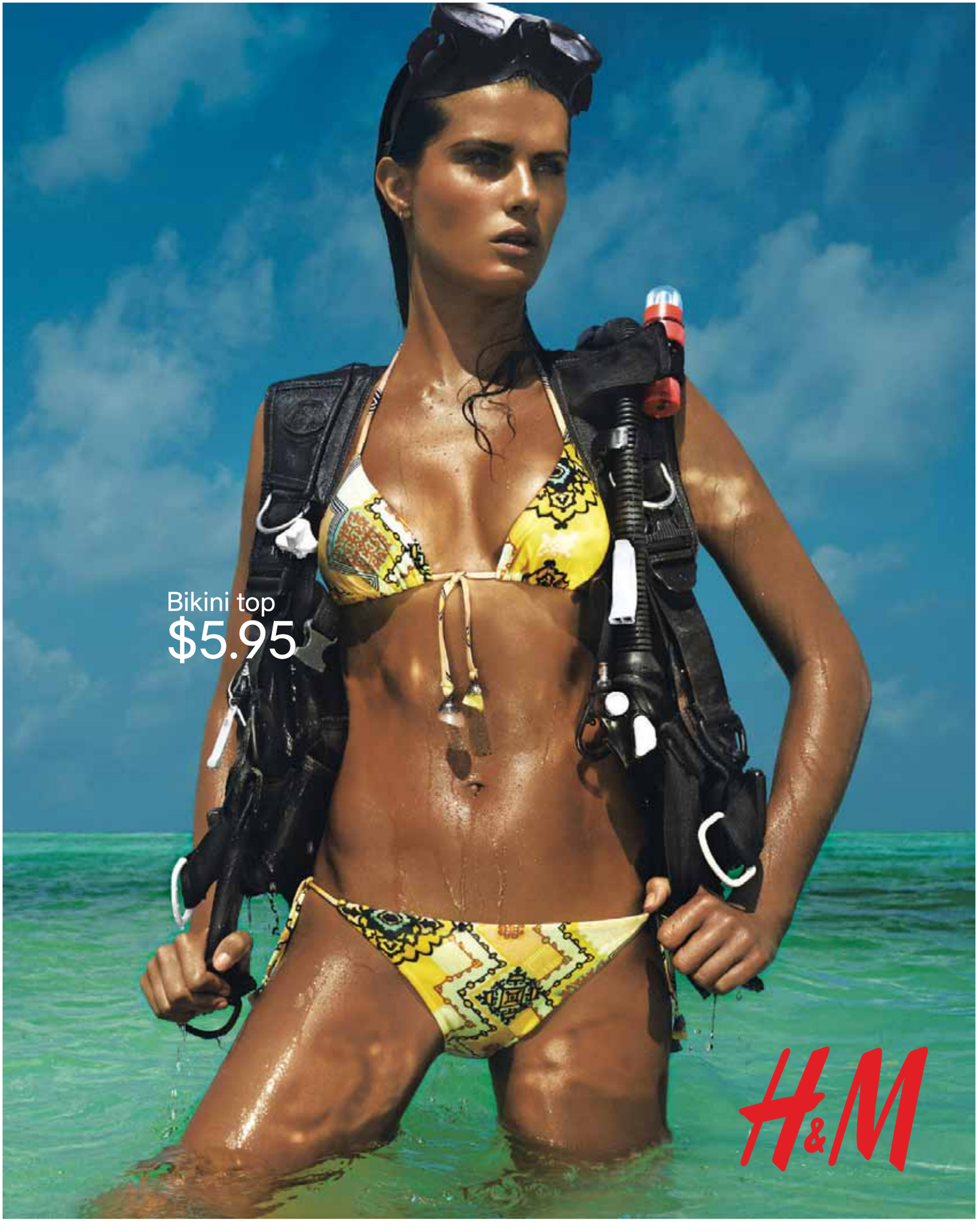
Canvas bag
At Roxy, it's all about mini and cross-body bags with beading, braiding, tassels, knotted details and charms. "That music festival look," says Tracey Tomlinson, the Ontario sales rep for Roxy swimwear.

For men and women, the canvas shoulder bag has made a big comeback over leather, as have mixed canvas and leather versions.

Straw hat
Like the topless straw bow hat from La Vie En Rose, for women, or the Pierside 2 Hat from Quiksilver, for men, a straw hat is a beach mainstay that protects and looks sophisticated at the same time.

This summer, Roxy will be offering a wide-brimmed straw hat that transforms the wearer into a "hybrid between a cowboy and a Cuban," says Tomlinson. STEPHANIE ORFORD

A BLUE AND FLOWER BEACH TOWEL, $19.95, AND A BOW HAT, $12.95, BOTH AVAILABLE AT LA VIE EN ROSE (LAVIEENROSE.COM).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Decor dilemma: creative fixes for your flat-screen TV space

Decorative interest. If you're not mounting your TV on the wall, here's what to do with that empty space

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Q: We love our apartment's Art Deco decor but the wall space around the television looks too bland. I don't want to hang the television, so what can I do to add some decorative interest?
Beatrice Sloane

A: This is a common problem when people choose to sit their flat-screen TV on a credenza rather than mounting it on the wall — they are left with a lot of space above the television and don't know how to treat it.

As this is the focal wall in your living area, I suggest treating the walls with something that will add drama and style to the overall room without drawing too much attention to the space above the TV.

Paint the corner pillar a deep colour to allow it to be an architectural element in the room. I suggest Benjamin Moore's Wild Mulberry, a darker, more neutral version of the accent colour that you have in your pillows and rug.

You might want to carry this colour onto another focal wall area like the end of a hallway or in the bedroom. This will help create a constant colour flow throughout the apartment.

Benjamin Moore's Wild Mulberry. BENJAMINMOORE.CA

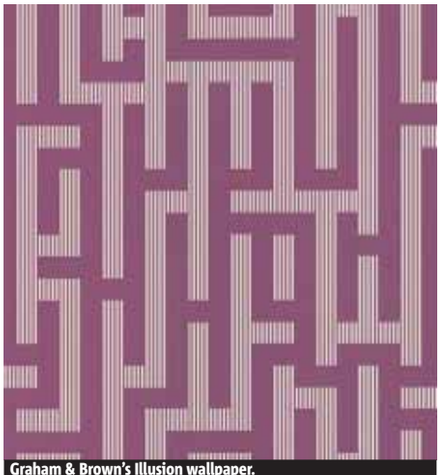
Use wallpaper behind the television to add much-needed pattern and texture to the room. I love the Art Deco feel of Graham & Brown's Illusion wallpaper ($60/roll), which highlights the square edges you have in your furniture. The good thing about wallpaper these days is that it's easily removed (simply peel) when you move out or change your colour scheme.

Hang something sculptural to help fill the empty space above the television, but not an attention-grabber like a large wall clock or painting.

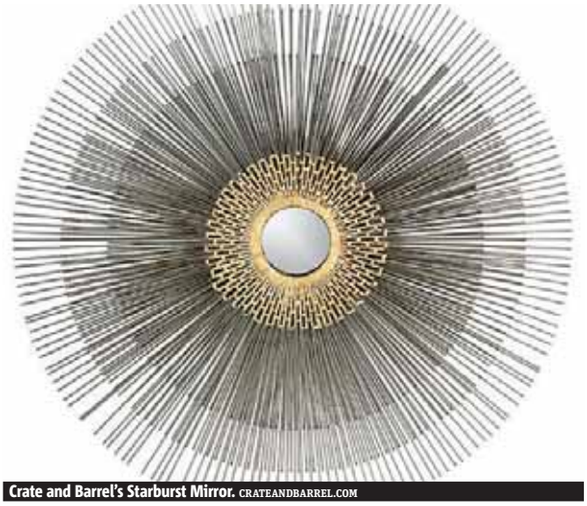
The Starburst mirror from Crate and Barrel ($247) has great Art Deco elements that will add a sculptural quality to the space. Hang it in the centre of the empty wall space, not directly above the television.

GOT A DESIGN DILEMMA? EMAIL YOUR QUESTION AND A PHOTO TO HOME@METRONEWS.CA. FOR DAILY DESIGN ADVICE, FOLLOW @KARLLOHNES ON TWITTER.

This living room needs decorative interest on the empty wall behind the television. HANDOUT



Graham & Brown's Illusion wallpaper. GRAHAMBROWN.CA



Crate and Barrel's Starburst Mirror. CRATEANDBARREL.COM

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Well isn't that pinteresting?

Online

Pinterest responded to a request for some of its most popular "boards" with these sites:

- pinterest.com/cliff/man-crafts
- pinterest.com/mkrafty/craft-and-diy
- pinterest.com/cliff/stuff-i-made

Social media.

Pinterest gives crafters and DIYers a place to get novel ideas — and to show off their own

Pinterest is a relative newcomer to social media, but it has changed the way that many crafters and do-it-yourselfers organize and share ideas.

"It should be called Jessa Decker-Smith's Interests. It's made for me," says Jessa Decker-Smith of Denver, who writes a craft blog called Happily Home Sewn.

She says she spent "a solid two or three days obsessing" about Pinterest when she signed on a few months ago. She uses it to find, organize and share sewing projects and crafts, mostly, but also recipes, fashion and organizing tips.

Pinterest is an online pinboard to which you "pin" favourite pictures and ideas. It's a public display of personal tastes and interest. Subjects include travel, food, home decorating — whatever you can think of — but craft bloggers were among the first to catch the Pinterest bug, according to Lauren Indvik, an editor at the social media news blog Mashable.com.

Decker-Smith's friend and fellow crafter Kristin Cunningham, uses Pinterest for hunting down homeschooling projects for her two young kids, and pins gardening ideas and workout routines. Both women like that the images they pin on Pinterest entice new readers to their blogs.

No matter how many times an item is re-pinned, viewers are taken to its original site — something that works well for media empires such as Martha Stewart Living, which employs "an army" of pinners to keep it among the top brands getting pinned, according to Kelly Alfieri, digital editorial director for Martha Stewart Living.

Other big names that get a lot of Pinterest play include Better Homes & Gardens, HGTV, Whole Foods Market and West Elm.

What's on Pinterest?

"It's stuff that people find beautiful or interesting."

Jessa Decker-Smith, craft blogger

"Now we have a way for our images to be portable and have those images drive people back to the (web)site," says Alfieri.

And because Martha Stewart Living editors can track which items get pinned and how often, they know that crafting is by far their most popular subject. Alfieri says about 22,000 people follow Martha Stewart Living on Pinterest, but 45,000 people keep track of its crafting boards.

"I think that's the Pinterest audience," says Alfieri. "It's a lot of crafters."

Success on Pinterest may lead to changes in the Martha Stewart Living magazine and online site. Although crafts have long been a focus, "We realize we have to ramp up our crafts on the website and in the magazine," says Alfieri.

More than 80 per cent of all Pinterest pins are re-pins, Indvik says, meaning folks aren't sharing original artwork and ideas — they're mostly sharing the ideas of others.

"That's sort of the beauty of the site," says Decker-Smith. "Someone else has gone out and found this wonderful thing."

Pinterest was launched in early 2010, and interest in it spiked about six months ago, says Indvik. Today, "Pinterest regularly surpasses Facebook and Twitter as referrals" to Martha Stewart Living, says Alfieri.

The Pinterest charm — its breadth of ideas and images — can also be a viewer's curse. Decker-Smith warns that you can get lost in the Pinterest world, as she did when she first joined. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Decoupaged eggs used as a pinned image on Pinterest, the virtual pin board for sharing images and ideas. JESSA DECKER-SMITH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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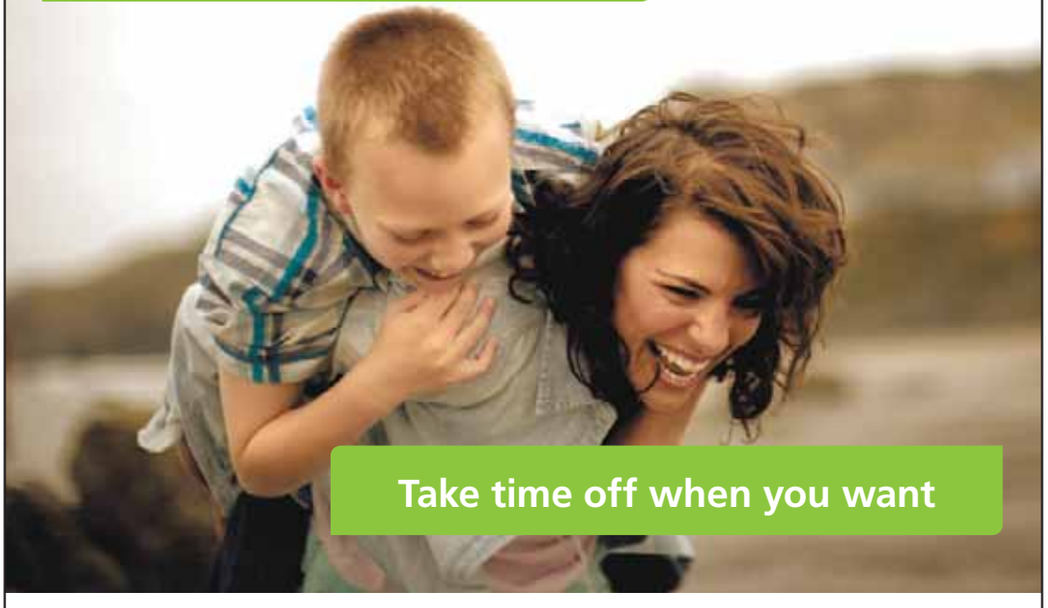

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A view of fabrics from Missoni Home during Milan's Furnishing Accessories Exhibition. ANTONIO CALANNI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Design exhibits

A stroll through Milan during the fair revealed surprises at nearly every turn. At the Triennale Design Museum, acrobats performed amid design objects and percussionists filled the halls with dissonance.

- An exhibit of miniaturized chairs from the Vitra Design Museum was on display at the Hugo Boss San Babila boutique, from Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's Barcelona chair to Marcel Breuer's Wassily.
- Anyone with an iPhone could discover a virtual exhibit of impossible designs at five locations in Milan, including the piazza outside of La Scala.
- There, artist Denis Santachiara planted his notion of a design project that would never be realized: personalized urns. A client could order many small urns, creating small memorials with personalized inscriptions to leave to loved ones.

Economic times favour affordable quality

Trends. Mainstays of this year's Milan Furniture Fair were not about costly redecorating but democractic design

Philippe Starck says his philosophy of democratic design, or quality pieces at accessible prices, is paying off in the ongoing economic crisis.

"People are intelligent. They want quality. They want a high level of creativity, but everyone (has) less money," Starck said during the recent Milan Furniture Fair.

The times favour the kind of creative impulse that led to his collaboration with the Italian design company Kartell, which specializes in plastic contemporary furniture.

In that mood, the mainstays of this year's Milan Furniture Fair were not about costly redecorating. Instead, designers showcased a few pieces that inspire as well as technological advances to make life easier.

Starck presented Miss Less, a glossy-plastic chair formed on a slim backrest atop a square base, as well aluminum-candlestick holders that when placed together appear to be lost in an embrace called Abbraciaio.

Despite the crisis, which has seen Italian furniture revenues decrease by five per cent in 2011 from 2010, requests for space at the Rho Fairgrounds outside Milan outstripped availability, organizers said.

The event attracted 300,000 visitors with events that spill over into showrooms, museums and design spaces throughout the city.

And it's not just furniture-makers competing for the attention of the design community.

The Tumi luggage and accessories brand chose the event to create buzz around a new line of lightweight hard luggage designed by Israeli designer Dror Benshetrit. The sleek Dror collection features angular-cut surfaces, giving the pieces a modern esthetic that also employs an engineering trick to give added resistance.

In a more traditional vein, Knoll premiered a new line of contemporary lounge furniture that it commissioned from French designers Pierre Beucler and Jean-Christophe Poggioli.

The pair created a cinematographic collection of sofas, armchairs and chaise lounges. They spent months testing the cushions to get the correct firmness for the seats and softness for the backrests.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A kitchen designed by Franke Home. ANTONIO CALANNI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A sofa from Edra Home at Milan's Furnishing Accessories Exhibition. ANTONIO CALANNI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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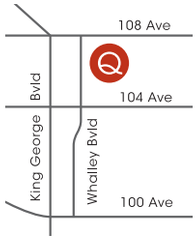

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Give your home a spring refresh

DIY. With spring in the air, now is a perfect time to breathe new life into your home's exterior and interior

Whether you're thinking of selling your home or craving some updates, there's no better time to breathe some new life into it than in the spring. Sweat Equity's Amy Matthews helps homeowners tackle projects themselves and gives tips and techniques on saving money along the way.

We've assembled some of Amy's sound advice for increasing property value while transforming spaces into something you'll be proud to call home.

Painting is an easy way to make any room feel brand new. ISTOCK IMAGES

Sometimes it's the outside that counts

With spring in the air, now is a great time to give the exterior of your house some love and care.

Replacing exterior siding and rejuvenating landscaping is a sure way to increase property value while also making it feel like you're returning to a brand new space.

Using upscale siding has a high return on investment as it will provide proper protection from the elements, which can eliminate the need for maintenance projects down the line.

Try to keep lawn improvements on par with other homes in your neighbourhood, while ensuring that basics such as a full green lawn and groomed shrubbery are checked off your list.

Colourful spring flowers are cheerful to come home to and can highlight a home's best features, such as complementing the colour of a new front door or accenting a walkway or deck.

Interior care

After admiring your home's refreshed exterior, why not continue the new look inside?

Painting is an easy way to make any room feel brand new. Stay away from uniform neutrals and try different colours in the various rooms of your house — maybe even consider an accent wall in your living room or bedroom.

If you're thinking of selling, remember that choosing the right colour can really pay off since it makes a first impression when walking into a space.

Too extreme a colour can turn potential buyers away. It's also best to stay away from wallpaper if you're thinking of selling because it is unlikely that potential buyers will share your taste in patterns and removal can be costly.

Bathroom updates

As long as it's running efficiently, keep bathroom plumbing as is and focus on surface upgrades such as installing modern fixtures on cabinets, showers and sinks — this is a sure way to build some real sweat equity.

Installing a new tile floor will also do wonders to refresh the space. Cost permitting, consider continuing tile up the walls to the ceiling — it not only looks great but is a lot easier to keep clean than paint.

Before installing flooring, consider purchasing an updated vanity and toilet to complete the new look. Focused lighting can create a spa-like sensation, regardless of how small the space.

SWEAT EQUITY AIRS WEEKNIGHTS AT 11 P.M. ET ON DIY NETWORK CANADA.

A seaberry bush is an excellent choice when planting berries. LEE REICH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berry, berry, quite extraordinary

Gardening. Some shrubs do double duty, offering tasty berries and beauty

Decisions, decisions. Should your shrubs offer tasty berries or good looks?

No need to choose between the two — there are plenty of shrubs that are ornamental and bear edible berries as well.

Berry shrubs are as easy to grow as strictly ornamental shrubs. Pests rarely pose a threat, which is fortunate. Since you're likely to plant ornamentals near living areas where you can enjoy their looks, you don't want to have to spray anything near where you dine al fresco or where children regularly tumble in the grass.

But there is one pest that might not resist getting into your shrubs: birds. However, some berry shrubs bear more than enough fruit to share with feathered friends. And if you like birds, attracting them may just be another plus for these plants.

Location, location

Although a berry shrub can be as easy to grow as any forsythia or lilac, berry shrubs do — like those two ornamentals — need some attention. As with any plant, check out site conditions before you plant.

For berry shrubs, make sure that soil drainage is adequate. If water still stands in a foot-deep hole for more than 12 hours after you pour water into it, the site is too boggy for most shrubs.

In that case, plant your shrub atop a wide mound of soil to get its roots out of the waterlogged zone, or choose a site with better drainage.

Another requirement is abundant sunlight — at least six hours per day. They need light both for flavour and yield. The sweetness in a blueberry fruit, for example, represents the conversion of the sun's energy to sugar. Red currants are exceptions; they fruit well in the shade.

Which bush to choose?

Fruit-bearing, ornamental shrubs include lowbush and highbush blueberry, juneberry, quince, gumi, seaberry, beach plum, Nanking cherry, red (white and pink) currant, rose, huckleberry, pineapple guava, pomegranate and clove currant.

A little pruning for a lot of berries

Many berry shrubs require regular pruning. Pruning allows stems to bask in light and bathe in air, keeping a shrub productive and limiting disease problems. Regularly removing old stems also makes way for younger, more productive ones.

Pruning is generally not needed until your plant's fourth winter. Just take your hand shears or lopping shears (the latter if stems are thicker than about half an inch) and cut a few of the oldest, thickest stems to ground level, or to lusty, low-side shoots.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Trend alert: The toe-cap pump

Pointy-toed pumps dipped in contrasting colours at the cap just might be spring's most seductive and unavoidable trend.

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News in London

If we had to choose a starting point for pointy-toed pumps, we'd pick Marc Jacobs's spring Louis Vuitton collection, which was littered with pretty pastel heels made sexy with metallic, razor sharp toes (see the mule versions below).

The idea has since trickled down to just about everywhere, appearing on the sales floor in Topshop and on the feet of Kate Moss and Solange Knowles.

Asos

striped pumps
$110, asos.com

Stuart Weitzman

$365, shopbop.com

Zara

court shoe with metal toe cap
$129, zara.com

TopShop

metallic toe cap heels
$120, topshop.com

Wear it with:

A drapey pencil skirt
Marc by Marc Jacobs

Cropped, tailored trousers
J.Crew

The bright and the beautiful

Beauty finds. These picks top must-buy lists this spring

THE KIT
thekit.ca

Glow-Op

Benefit's Cabana Glama kit includes sheer complexion enhancer, soft neutral shadows, bronzer and pop-of-pink lip and cheek tint, all for fresh-off-the-beach beauty. $42, at Sephora, Shoppers Drug Mart, Murale.

Eye Candy

Shu Uemura's cheery little limited edition eyeshadow trios in Air and Light will make your eyes pop. $49 each, at select Holt Renfrew locations

Nailing it

"Nail polish is better than a trip to the therapist," quips Essie Weingarten, founder and creative director of Essie. Our fave new hue? A pastel lilac called To Buy or Not To Buy, $10, essie.com.

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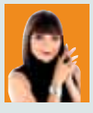


JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

IN THIS HECTIC MODERN WORLD, TWITTER HAS BECOME A COOL AND SUCCINCT WAY OF COMMUNICATING. IT ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND, AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHETHER IT'S A FASHION QUESTION OR YOU JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON LIFE'S BIGGER PICTURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

@Jeanne_Beker: Okay, so here's the question: Do YOU fret about getting older???

@FunnyTorontoGal
I once gave my Mom a t-shirt: "After 40, it's Mainly Maintenance". I am 45 and believe this. You are what you eat & do :)

@rouquinne I'm ashamed to tell you that yes, I do fret about getting older and there are so many reasons; most of them probably stupid...

@Artistrecart
yes i have been fretting about getting older ever since i have been out of work. I keep my hair long to look younger.

@held123 no, I'm kind of looking forward to it.

@Jeanne_Beker: My hero Gus. Growing with leaps and beautiful bounds!

@Jeanne_Beker: Walking Gus makes me stop to smell the roses...errr... tulips! Dogs are good for the soul.

Leave the meat option in the freezer and go veggie instead

Did you know that a head of cauliflower can be sliced into two thick "steaks" that hold up well on the grill? They can be seasoned as you see fit, and topped with whatever you like. In this recipe, the seasonings are simple, then topped with lightly poached eggs and truffle oil, creating a delicious sauce.

1. Heat a grill to medium. Bring a large saucepan of water to a low simmer.

2. Use a paring knife to trim away the leaves and any stem at the base of the cauliflower, but do not cut out the core. Stand the head of cauliflower upright on its base. Use a large bread or other serrated knife to trim away 1/2 inch on either side of the head. Reserve these pieces for another use.

3. Leaving the head standing upright, use the knife to slice the cauliflower in half down the centre to create 2 even halves. Sprinkle both sides of each half with olive oil, then with salt, pepper, a bit of the garlic powder and a little lemon juice.

4. Carefully set the "steaks" on the grill, cover and cook for 8 minutes.

5. Use spatula to carefully flip cauliflower and grill for 8 minutes, or until both sides are lightly browned and tender. Transfer to serving plates, then cover with foil to keep warm.

6. Once the cauliflower is done, add the vinegar to the simmering water.

7. Crack 1 egg into a small glass, then gently and slowly pour it into the simmering water by bringing the lip of the glass right down to the surface of the water so the egg slides in. Cook for 4 minutes, then use a slotted spoon to lift out the egg (letting excess water drip away), setting it one of the cauliflower steaks. Repeat with the remaining egg.

8. Season the eggs with salt and pepper, then drizzle with truffle oil. Serve immediately.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grilled Cauliflower Steaks with Poached Eggs and Truffle Oil

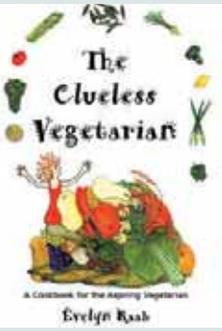
This recipe serves two. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1 large head cauliflower
- Olive oil
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- 1 tablespoon white or cider vinegar
- 2 eggs
- Truffle oil (or truffle-flavoured olive oil)

Cookbook of the Week

The Clueless Vegetarian



The Clueless Vegetarian by Evelyn Raab is designed for those who love good food, cooked from scratch, but also have to have a life

If you've just switched to a vegetarian diet, the book's straightforward nutritional info will help you in making good food choices. If you've been practicing for a while, you'll discover new recipes and methods.

Among the eats included are: Creamy Carrot Soup, Roasted Tomato Fettucine, Potato Latkas, Spanakopita and more. METRO

Gazpacho Salad. Soup inspires refreshing salad

1. In a small bowl, combine garlic, oil, vinegar, salt, pepper and rosemary.

2. Cut tomatoes in half crosswise and gently squeeze out seeds; cut into 2-cm (3/4-inch) pieces. Place in a large bowl; add cucumber, yellow pepper, green onions and croutons.

3. Pour dressing over top; toss well but gently. Let stand for 5 minutes to soften croutons.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ FOODLAND ONTARIO/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR & TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE VISIT, EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Ingredients

- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) extra-virgin olive oil
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) sherry or red wine vinegar
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- Pinch each freshly ground black pepper and crumbled dried rosemary
- 3 medium greenhouse tomatoes
- Half a greenhouse cucumber, chopped
- 1 sweet greenhouse yellow pepper, chopped
- 3 green onions, sliced
- 500 ml (2 cups) rustic croutons (2-cm/3/4-inch cubes)

Walnuts, eggplant & gooey cheese offer great contrast

This recipe serves four to five. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

1. Heat oven to 200 C (400 F).

2. In bowl, combine bread crumbs, Parmesan and walnuts. Season with salt, pepper.

3. Place eggs in another bowl and season with salt and pepper. Repeat for flour.

4. Slice eggplant crosswise into 8 to 10 1-cm (1/2-inch) thick rounds. Dip each slice into flour, followed by egg and last into walnut mix. Press firmly to achieve even breading.

5. Lay eggplant slices onto parchment-lined baking sheet and bake on the centre oven rack for 15 minutes.

6. Sauce: In saucepan, place passata, tomatoes, basil leaves, garlic and olive oil and simmer over low heat. Spoon desired amount over each eggplant slice and top with mozzarella.

8. Return eggplant to oven for 5 to 7 minutes until mozzarella has melted. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ CALIFORNIA WALNUTS, WALNUTINFO.COM/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Ingredients

- 125 ml (1/2 cup) Italian bread crumbs
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) Parmesan cheese, grated
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) walnut crumbs
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) flour
- 1 large eggplant
- 125 g (4 oz) fresh mozzarella

Sauce

- 500 ml (2 cups) passata
- 2 Roma tomatoes, diced
- Handful basil leaves, cut in chiffonade (long, thin strips)
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
- Fresh basil, for garnish

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SPORTS

CFL draft

"I just want to go to a place that wants me and whatever team drafts me will want me. It will be interesting to see how things unfold."

Ben Heenan on Wednesday. The six-foot-four, 310-pound Saskatchewan Huskies offensive lineman remains the overwhelming favourite to go first overall in Thursday's draft. The Saskatchewan Roughriders hold the No. 1 pick. As of Wednesday, no club had met Roughriders GM Brendan Taman's asking price for the pick of a 2012 first-round selection, a future selection and/or a Canadian-born player.

On the web

Last year, the Dallas Mavericks topped the Oklahoma City Thunder en route to their first-ever NBA championship. In the playoff rematch a year later, the young Thunder appear to have learned from that defeat and are well on their way to sending the Mavs to an early exit. Scan the code for the story.

Soccer. Hassli bags first goal as Whitecaps win first leg

Eric Hassli finally scored his first goal of the season and the Vancouver Whitecaps beat FC Edmonton 2-0 Wednesday in the first leg of their Amway Canadian Championship semifinal.

The Whitecaps will return home with an impressive lead when the second leg of the series is played at BC Place next Wednesday.

Hassli, who has yet to score in seven Major League Soccer appearances this year, put the Whitecaps up 1-0 in the 18th minute.

Hassli was set up beautifully just outside the box by Omar Salgado's centring pass, and the striker kicked a shot past Edmonton goaltender David Monsalve as a sparse crowd at Commonwealth Stadium looked on.

Salgado was dangerous for much of the first half, and he helped put the Whitecaps up 2-0 by setting up Atiba Harris' goal in the 41st minute.

Salgado got by an Edmonton defender in the box and fired an ambitious shot from a sharp angle that bounced off the right post. Harris was there for the easy tap-in to make it 2-0 Vancouver.

Edmonton's Serisay Barthelemy left the pitch on a stretcher after taking a knock in the 21st minute. He was replaced by Matthew Lam.

Harris had to be replaced in the 71st minute by Michael Nanchoff after he picked up an injury.

Long Tan almost made it 3-0 in the 85th minute, but his long strike from just outside the box was parried by Monsalve.

Brad Knighton picked up the clean sheet for Vancouver.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Final match

The winner of this series will play either Toronto FC or the Montreal Impact in the championship final.

Preds get it together at home vs. Coyotes

NHL. Rinne finds his game as Nashville gets back into series

Game 3

Predators	Coyotes
2	0

Pekka Rinne made 32 saves as he returned to his dominating form, Mike Fisher scored his first goal of these playoffs, and the Nashville Predators found their rhythm with a 2-0 win over the Phoenix Coyotes on Wednesday night in Game 3 of the Western Conference semifinal series.

After giving up nine goals on the road as the Predators fell behind 2-0 in the best-of-seven matchup, Rinne was rarely challenged by the lacklustre Coyotes. He helped the Predators overcome the suspensions of forwards Alexander Radulov and Andrei Kostitsyn.

Phoenix still leads 2-1 in the series that will continue with Game 4 in Music City on Friday.

David Legwand and Fisher capitalized on mistakes and scored 76 seconds apart midway through the first period. Rinne, a finalist for the Vezina Trophy given to the NHL's top goalie, made the goals stand up.

Though Phoenix outshot Nashville early, Rinne wasn't tested much. He had a shot go off the post in the first period and saw heavier traffic in the crease as the Coyotes shook off a sluggish start. He never faltered after giving up five goals in Sunday's 5-3 Game 2 loss — the Predators' worst performance of the post-season.

Phoenix had its team-record streak of three consecutive road playoff wins and a run of three straight wins in Nashville overall snapped. The Coyotes had given up just four goals on the road in the playoffs coming into Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Predators, from left, David Legwand, Gabriel Bourque and Patric Hornqvist celebrate Legwand's goal behind Coyotes captain Shane Doan in Nashville on Wednesday night. MARK HUMPHREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL. Former linebacker Seau found dead at home

Former NFL star Junior Seau was found shot to death at his home Wednesday morning in what police said appeared to be a suicide. He was 43.

Police Chief Frank McCoy said Seau's girlfriend reported finding him unconscious with a gunshot wound to the chest and lifesaving efforts were unsuccessful.

A gun was found near him, McCoy said. Police said no suicide note was found and they didn't immediately know who the gun was registered to.

Seau's mother appeared before reporters, weeping uncontrollably.

"I don't understand ... I'm shocked," Luisa Seau cried out. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Junior Seau
CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

MLB. 'I could have' misunderstood Clemens, Pettitte tells defence

With two short answers, Andy Pettitte called into question the validity of his testimony against Roger Clemens, part of a discouraging day for prosecutors in the retrial of the seven-time Cy Young Award winner.

After stumbling its way to a mistrial of Clemens last year, the government is struggling again in the retrial — to the point that the crux of Pettitte's testimony might be tossed out. First, the exasperated judge criticized the questioning of Pettitte on Wednesday, then he ruled against prosecutors in another matter. Finally he cried out: "You're taking positions that are totally absurd to me."

During cross-examination, Clemens' lawyers asked if Pettitte might have misunderstood when Clemens supposedly acknowledged using human growth hormone to Pettitte in a conversation during the 1999-2000 off-season?

"I could have," Pettitte answered. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in pictures

1 Soccer. Muamba returns to Bolton

Fabrice Muamba made an emotional return to Bolton Wednesday, waving to supporters from the field less than seven weeks after his on-field cardiac arrest. The midfielder was introduced to a standing ovation ahead of Bolton's match against Tottenham. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 NHL. Habs find their man

The Montreal Canadiens believe they have found the man who can lead them back up the standings, saying new GM Marc Bergevin is the total package. The club introduced the Chicago assistant GM and former NHL defenceman as its new general manager Wednesday, just over a month after firing Pierre Gauthier. THE CANADIAN PRESS

3 NBA. Award for Chandler

Tyson Chandler, the catalyst for the New York Knicks' defensive improvement, was voted the NBA's defensive player of the year on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rangers' Gaborik scores winner in marathon match

NHL. New York outlasts Washington in triple-OT thriller

Marian Gaborik scored at 14:41 of the third overtime, and the New York Rangers outlasted the Washington Capitals in a 2-1 victory early Thursday morning to take a 2-1 lead in their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

Brad Richards was near the backboards before sending a pass in front to Gaborik, who ended the marathon by sliding the puck between the pads of rookie goaltender Braden Holtby.

It was Gaborik's first goal since New York's first playoff game against Ottawa, snapping an eight-game drought.

Brad Richards celebrates Marian Gaborik's game-winner early Thursday in Washington.
PATRICK MCDERMOTT/GETTY IMAGES

Henrik Lundqvist had 45 saves for New York. Holtby stopped 47 shots for the Capitals.

Early in the third overtime, Washington killed a New York power play to keep the suspense going.

The game started at 7:40 p.m. ET and stretched into the next day, ending at 12:14 a.m. Thursday. There will be a two-day break before the teams meet for Game 4 on Saturday in Washington.

It was yet another low-scoring, extremely tight game for the Capitals. Nine of Washington's 10 playoff games have been decided by one goal; the exception was New York's 3-1 win in the series opener.

Washington star Alex Ovechkin, who logged only 13-1/2 minutes of ice time in the Capitals' 3-2 victory Monday in Game 2 in New York, finished with 20-1/2 minutes in regulation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grizzlies get even with Clippers in Game 2

DeAndre Jordan shoots the ball while defended by Tony Allen Wednesday in Memphis, Tenn. O.J. Mayo scored 10 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter, and the Memphis Grizzlies bounced back to beat the Los Angeles Clippers 105-98 on Wednesday night. The Grizzlies blew a 27-point lead in losing Game 1 on Sunday night. They got back to their physical style and evened the series. ANDY LYONS/GETTY IMAGES

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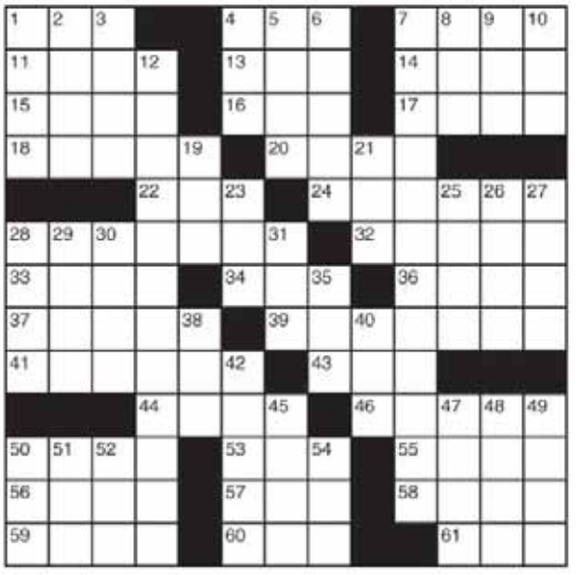
Crossword

Across

1 Kettle and Bell
4 Tummy muscles
7 Connect
11 "Yeah, right"
13 Famed vaudeville family name
14 "Do — others ..."
15 Burn somewhat
16 Can material
17 Birds' home
18 Necklace carving
20 Earring site
22 Chips accessory
24 Sweet tasting
28 Red
32 A portrayer of 007
33 California town
34 Manhandle
36 Gear teeth
37 Play out
39 Vegas winnings
41 Skin-related
43 Homer's interjection
44 Culture medium
46 Refuge
50 State with conviction
53 Gratuity
55 Start over
56 Platter
57 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
58 Adolescent
59 "You do the —"
60 Do some tailoring
61 Tatter

Down

1 Not fem.
2 On the briny
3 Thailand, once
4 Sternward
5 Seethe
6 Religious council
7 "Lassie" actress
8 Indivisible
9 With 10-Down, "— Unusual"
10 See 9-Down
12 "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" Oscar winner
19 Tin Man's need
21 Vagrant
23 Energy
25 Hen pen
26 Therefore
27 Examination
28 Coaster
29 Traffic pylon
30 Hebrew month
31 — Mahal
35 Bankroll
38 Playground game
40 Dove's comment
42 Gate fastener
45 Mature
47 Prognosticator
48 Notion
49 Composer's creation
50 Navy bigwig (Abbr.)
51 By way of
52 Superlative ending
54 Singer Tillis



Sudoku

1		4		2	5			9
	6		4					2
	2		6				4	
2							9	
		9	5		2	4		
	3							1
	7				9		2	
5					1		7	
8			7	3		6		

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	9	1	4	8	6	2	3	7
7	2	8	5	1	3	6	4	9
3	6	4	7	9	2	5	8	1
9	1	3	2	5	7	8	6	4
6	4	7	1	3	8	9	2	5
8	5	2	9	6	4	1	7	3
2	3	9	8	4	5	7	1	6
1	7	6	3	2	9	4	5	8
4	8	5	6	7	1	3	9	2

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

NZ MEBUOEYL YUHEXKHUY URTWEMNSUM OL LEA, N URTUIH HGKH BNFGH GKSU K OWKMHNXF UZZUIH EX LEA.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A PERSON IS WAY TOO FOND OF FRIGATES AND DESTROYERS, SOME MIGHT SAY IT'S WARSHIP WORSHIP.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals Y

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Today 11°/7° Partly sunny
Friday 12°/8° Variable
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
TWN incorporates MSC data

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. You would be wise to keep your money in your pocket today. Whatever gains you have made in recent weeks, you could lose.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Your persuasive powers are such that anyone will believe what you tell them. Should you take advantage of that fact financially? Of course.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Plans you made a long time ago are beginning to bear fruit, so keep your nerve and keep things moving.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Go out of your way to talk with people you don't usually get along with. It pays to be friendly.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Try to be a more ambitious and more assertive. Let important people know you're ready to move up.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Anyone who tries to scare you into doing something you don't want to do will fail abysmally.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. You may be tempted to bet against the odds today but before you gamble with your future, ask yourself whether you can afford to lose.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Don't keep your feelings to yourself today. Show emotions. People will respond to you better if they can see that you are vulnerable.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. According to the planets, you need to streamline your daily routine so you have more time to yourself.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Don't waste time lamenting your run of bad fortune because it is already beginning to end.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. When pushed to extremes, you can mix it with the best of them and today you must not allow yourself to be defamed by someone.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. You may be a nice guy but every now and then you go right the other way and reveal your ruthless streak.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"Got mouse?"
George
ROB GRIFFITH/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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